

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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FOR WISNER

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TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: PRESS ITEMS ON GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA

1. IN SPECIAL TO THE NOVEMBER 10 NEW YORK TIMES, MICHAEL KAUFMAN REPORTS FROM SALISBURY THAT RHODESIAN MILITARY SPOKESMEN, OFTEN STRAINING AGAINST A DESIRE TO AFFIRM THE SUCCESS OF THEIR OCTOBER 31 RAID IN MOZAMBIQUE, ARE SAYING LITTLE BEYOND DENYING ALLEGATIONS MADE BY BLACK SPOKESMEN OUTSIDE RHODESIA THAT AS MANY AS 1,000 PEOPLE WERE KILLED, AMONG THEM CIVILIANS, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN. KAUFMAN NOTES THAT THERE IS A WIDELY HELD VIEW AMONG OFFICIALS THAT THE RAIDS HAVE STRENGTHENED THE HAND OF THE WHITE DELEGATION AT THE GENEVA TALKS ON RHODESIA'S FUTURE, FORCING A REALIZATION ON BLACK DELEGATES THAT THERE IS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF FIGHT LEFT IN THE RHODESIAN ARMY. ACCORDING TO KAUFMAN, THE RHODESIAN MILITARY APPEAR CONVINCED THAT THE RAIDS HAVE BOLSTERED WHITE

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MORALE WHILE DEALING A PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW TO THE

GUERRILLAS.

2. AP REPORTS IN THE NOVEMBER 10 NEW YORK TIMES, THAT JOSHUA NKOMO HAS INDICATED THAT RHODESIA UNDER BLACK RULE

WILL LOOK TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR FRIENDSHIP, SUPPORT AND AID RATHER THAN TO THE UNITED STATES. NKOMO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RHODESIA AND ANY OTHER COUNTRY WOULD BE GOVERNED BY ITS ATTITUDE "DURING OUR PERIOD OF ARMED STRUGGLE." NKOMO POINTED OUT THAT, "WE GET OUR ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION." "IT'S NO SECRET. WE HAVE GONE TO THEM. THEY HAVEN'T COME TO US. WE ARE WORKING WITH THEM." HE NOTED THAT RHODESIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE "THE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES." AP REPORTS THAT MR. NKOMO'S SPOKESMAN LATER SAID THAT MR NKOMO "DID NOT SAY WE SHOULD CHOOSE ONE AGAINST THE OTHER" IN REFERENCE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. NKOMO SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT NEITHER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER NOR HIS SUCCESSOR HAD ANY ROLE TO PLAY AT THE DEADLOCKED GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE EXPLAINED THAT AS FAR AS THE BLACK LEADERS WERE CONCERNED, THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS WERE "BASICALLY" BETWEEN THEM AND THE BRITISH. MR. NKOMO ALSO SHOWED NO INTEREST IN THE \$2 BILLION FOREIGN AID FUND THAT MR. KISSINGER HAS PROPOSED TO COMPENSATE WHITES WHO LEAVE RHODESIA AND TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY UNDER BLACK RULE. "I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUND IS," NKOMO SAID. "BUT IF IT IS TO BUY PROPERTY FROM THOSE WHO WANT TO LEAVE AND THAT PROPERTY WILL BE OWNED BY THE TRUST FUND, THEN NO THANK YOU. OUR COUNTRY BEING BOUGHT OVER BY SOME FUND, THAT WE CANNOT HAVE." NKOMO CRITICIZED BISHOP MUZOREWA FOR SUGGESTING THAT GRUDGES HELD BY THE NATIONAL UNION AND THE PEOPLES' UNION MIGHT SPLIT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ONCE THE GENEVA TALKS WERE OVER AND PLUNGE RHODESIA INTO CIVIL WAR. IN REFERRING TO MUZOREWA, NKOMO STATED THAT, "A MAN WHO BELIEVES IN GOD LIKE HIM SHOULD PRAY THAT (THE PATRIOTIC FRONT) SUCCEEDS AND NOT BE TALKING OF A CIVIL WAR."

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3. WRITING IN THE NOVEMBER 10 NEW YORK TIMES, BERNARD WEINRAUB REPORTS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, SEEKING TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, HAS DISCUSSED A NEW MORE FLEXIBLE FORMULA FOR AN INDEPENDENCE DATE IN RHODESIA AND A POSSIBLE BRITISH ROLE IN THE TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE. WEINRAUB NOTES THAT THE NEW FORMULA WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE STEPS

NECESSARY FOR RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT FIXING A SPECIFIC DAY. HE ADDS THAT SUCH A FORMULA WOULD DEFUSE THE ISSUE OF A DATE AND LEAD TO THE MORE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS OF CREATING AN INTERIM BI-RACIAL GOVERNMENT

ACCEPTABLE TO BLACKS AND WHITES IN RHODESIA. ACCORDING TO WEINRAUB, ONE POINT DISCUSSED IN THE NEW FORMULA WOULD POSSIBLY OVERHAUL THE OUTLINED INTERIM GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE; BY VIRTUALLY SCRAPPING THE NOTION OF A COUNCIL OF STATE, AND REPLACING IT WITH A BRITISH MINISTER, WHO WOULD CONTROL THE ARMED FORCES, SERVE AS ARBITER BETWEEN WHITES AND BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT AND PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE UNTIL A NEW CONSTITUTION EMERGES AND MAJORITY RULE IS ACHIEVED.

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